

**Minutes of the Remote Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 5th May 2021**

Present: C. Fenwick, C. Colton, J. Don, B. Smith, E. Smith, R. Alexander.

1. Annual Report from the Chair:

The annual report summarising the previous two year's activities was presented by the Chair. A copy of the report is appended to these minutes.

2. Annual Finance Reports:

	<u>Current A/C</u>	<u>Recreation Area A/C</u>
2019/20		
Balance B/F	£14928.18	£1304.69
Plus Precept	£7500.00	
Plus Receipts	<u>£1594.61</u>	<u>£2.59</u>
Sub Total	£24022.79	£1307.28
Less Payments	<u>£7633.42</u>	<u> .</u>
Balance C/F	£16389.37	£1307.28
2020/21		
Balance B/F	£16389.37	£1307.28
Plus Precept	£7500.00	
Plus Receipts	£76.15	<u>£0.63</u>
Sub Total	£23965.52	£1307.91
Less Payments	<u>£4865.61</u>	<u> .</u>
Balance C/F	£19099.91	£1307.91

The year end Current A/C balance includes £9919.88 for the Cemetery Extension Fund.

3. Comments and questions from parishioners:

There were no comments or questions from parishioners.

4. Election of Chair:

J Don proposed, seconded by E Smith, that C Fenwick be elected as Chair for a further year. There being no other nominations, C Fenwick was duly elected as Chair of Husthwaite Parish Council.

5. Election of Vice-chair:

B Smith proposed, seconded by C Fenwick, that C Colton be elected as Vice-chair to the Council. There being no other nominations, C Colton was duly elected as Vice-chair.

6. Appointment of representatives of the Council on other organisations:

Beckwith Bequest Trustee: Carol Fenwick until April 2022

Village Hall Trustee: Ray Alexander

7. Responsibilities within the Council:

Communications: B Smith

Public Footpaths: J Law

Easingwold & Villages Forum: J Don

Recreation Area: C Fenwick

Highways: All as necessary

Risk Assessment: C Colton

Neighbourhood Watch / Police Liaison: C Fenwick

Street Lighting: C Fenwick

Parish Liaison: All as necessary

YLCA: All as necessary

Signed.....21st July 2021

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR MAY 2019 - APRIL 2021

Following the elections in May 2019, we had a full complement of Parish Councillors so, after signing our Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms, the areas of responsibility within the council were assigned as follows: -

Craig Colton	- Risk Assessor
Peter Fox	- Easingwold & Villages Forum
John Law	- Public Footpaths
Barney Smith	- Communications.
Elaine Smith	- Vice-chair.
Carol Fenwick	- Beckwith Trust, Neighbourhood Watch & Police Liaison, Recreation Area, Risk Assessor, Street Lighting, Village Hall Representative and Chair.

In addition, it was agreed that Councillors would attend Parish Liaison and YLCA meetings in rotation and highways issues would be reported by everyone on the NYCC Highway Maintenance Parish Portal.

During the bi-monthly meeting that followed Councillors reviewed Husthwaite Parish Council policies and, after careful consideration, accepted tenders from M Barker for new cemetery gates and Farm & Land Services for works to the lime tree on the Village Green. It was reported that a serious accident had occurred at the A19 / C96 junction and we agreed to urge NYCC Highways to install a right-hand turn lane. Other items discussed were the takeover of the 31X Bus Service by Reliance Motor Services, the opening of a Tomahawk Steakhouse in the village, the completion of remedial works to the deep gully near to Acaster bridge and the annual inspection of the Recreation Area (which highlighted the need to replace some degrading timbers). The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements were also unanimously approved and, as our income and expenditure were under £25,000, the PC qualified for a Certificate of Exemption from audit.

Before the next meeting, I attended a very educational Community Banking Talk in the village hall which was jointly organized by the PC & Husthwaite Neighbourhood Watch. Then at the July meeting Peter informed us that the Government Inspector had reopened the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan for further consultation. It was also noted that NYCC Highways had offered to make low cost signage and lining improvements at the A19/C96 junction, Reliance Motor Services had acknowledged our request to reinstate a later bus service, the posts at the corners of the Village Green had been repainted and a visit to Allerton Waste Recovery Park had been offered to interested persons. The Kendrew Green cutting regime, Public Access Defibrillator maintenance, an alleged breach of planning control at the Tomahawk, VE Day celebrations and the setting up of a volunteer group to undertake improvements to Public Footpaths were also discussed.

At the September meeting it was reported that the Glover Report had recommended that there should be no fracking wells within National Parks or Areas of Natural Beauty. In addition, Coxwold PC had verified their support for improvements to Bus Service 31X, NYCC Highways had surveyed the Wych Elm trees on Kendrew Green and John had written a draft environmental plan to be circulated with the newsletter. Councillors agreed to make a donation towards plants for the new Village Planters and authorized the purchase of a new battery and set of pads for the Public Access Defibrillator. Other items discussed were the Hambleton Local Plan, blocked drains on Kays Bank, the creation of a local Public Footpath booklet and the replacement of timbers in the Adventure Play Area.

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Before the November meeting Craig and I attended a YLCA meeting, where Deborah Flowers gave a presentation on Speed Management Protocol and Drainage systems, Peter and I both took part in the Remembrance Service at St Nicholas Church and the new Cemetery gates were in situ and looking fantastic. At the Parish Council meeting later that month, Peter reported on the suspension of fracking after earthquake incidents in the UK and confirmed that the Government Inspector had approved a 500m frack-free zone around residential and sensitive sites. The PC were disappointed to be informed that the risk performance data for the A19/C96 junction did not meet NYCC intervention levels and also noted the completion of the C96 road resurfacing. The change of guardianship details and fitting of a new battery to the Public Access Defibrillator, YLCA website accessibility training, broken street signs, the pothole adjacent to the bus shelter in High Street and the completion of works at the Recreation Area by Image Playgrounds were also discussed. The PC agreed to increase the Cemetery Charges and, as this is also the meeting at which we set the precept for the following year, it was unanimously decided to maintain a precept of £7500, allowing for expenditure on the Village Newsletter, Cemetery extension and village improvements, as well as regular expenditure for grass cutting, insurance, Clerks wages and Recreation Area upkeep.

At the meeting in January it was reported that the owner of the village pub had expressed an intention to dispose of the asset on the open market and Councillors supported the formation of a Community Interest Group who could be treated as a potential bidder for the property. It was noted that A19/C96 junction collision data had been received from NYCC, the grass triangle adjacent to Kendrew Green had been repaired, a new street name sign had been installed at the top of The Nookin and the gully sucker had unblocked the drains on Kays Bank. Councillors voted to extend the grass cutting contract with Farm & Land Services for a further two years and rejected the offer from Howardian Hills AONB to restore village name signs. Other items discussed were support for the village website, a suspicious incident at St Nicholas Church, the development of a community woodland project and wildflower planting on verges.

Before the meeting in March a newly formed Community Interest Group, which included some Councillors, had created an online survey and hosted an open meeting to gauge villager's interest in a community pub. Then, members of Church Fenton Parish Council attended the PC meeting to explain how they purchased both their village pub and shop with a low interest loan from the Public Works Loan Board. We were also joined by Dr Iredale and Rev Hassall who wanted to discuss a unified approach to offering assistance to those isolating due to the Covid-19 virus. After some discussion, it was agreed that the PC would circulate a flyer to every house in the village listing the contact details of Councillors willing to help and Craig volunteered to co-ordinate responses. The Council regrettably accepted Peter Fox's resignation and asked that he be thanked for all his hard work over the last seven years, especially his investigations into fracking and his participation on the South Hambleton Shale Gas Advisory Group, and also agreed to amend the Parish Council bank mandate. It was noted that photographic evidence of yet another accident at the A19/C96 junction had been sent to NYCC Highways and a quote from Farm & Land Services for tree works in the Cemetery and the cutting back of vegetation around the Recreation Area perimeter was accepted. In addition, the creation of a wildflower meadow in the Recreation Area, Kendrew Green trees, the installation of a security system at St Nicholas Church and developer contributions for education were discussed.

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Due to the Coronavirus lockdown, last year's Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled and Councillors agreed to continue with their assigned responsibilities for a further year.

July 2020 saw us meet remotely for the first time after new regulations were temporarily approved by Government and, unfortunately, we noted that no response had been received from the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick regarding our request for support in applying for a loan to purchase the village pub. It was reported that the work of the Covid 19 Action Group had been much appreciated by villagers, the Gibbet Hill PROW sign had been replaced, the banking on High Street adjacent to East View had been reinstated and Police had raided a property on The Nookin following suspicious activity. Other items discussed were the wildflower survey in the Recreation Area, the advertisement of the vacant Councillors position, the AJ1 Project Road Safety Fund, the Village Hall storage extension and complaints regarding parking in Low Street. The Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements were unanimously approved and, as our income and expenditure were under £25,000, the PC qualified for a Certificate of Exemption from audit again.

At the meeting in September, it was reported that all applications for Public Works Loan Board funding must firstly be approved by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association and Councillors encouraged the Community Interest Group to produce a full business case in preparation. Only one expression of interest for the Parish Councillor vacancy had been received so Ray Alexander was co-opted by majority vote. Craig produced an Accessibility Statement for Husthwaite Parish Council which was then uploaded onto the village website and John reported that volunteers had raked off the grass cuttings from the wildflower meadow. The continuation of village assistance over the winter months, a single unitary council for North Yorkshire, parking in Low Street, filming in the village and an upgrade to fibre broadband was also discussed.

Before the November meeting our new Councillor had signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and Jan, our Clerk of five years, had unfortunately tendered her resignation. Councillors expressed their gratitude for all her hard work and the Chair offered to undertake the Clerks duties until a replacement could be found. We were informed that Openreach had received our application to upgrade but, due to the excessive costs involved to connect us with the nearest fibre highway, it was unlikely to be approved. Another item discussed was the erection of a Village Christmas Tree which the Village Trust had agreed to part fund. This is also the meeting at which we have the dubious pleasure of setting the precept for the following year, it was unanimously agreed to maintain the precept at £7500, allowing for expenditure on the Newsletter, Cemetery extension and village improvements, as well as regular expenditure for grass cutting, insurance, Clerks wages and Recreation Area upkeep.

At the January meeting it was reported that the Village Christmas Tree idea had been a resounding success and a real team effort. In addition, Christies had confirmed that a bid had been made on the village pub and the YLCA Good Councillors Guide to Community Business had been received. The Husthwaite Community Support Group had offered to co-ordinate volunteer transport to vaccination hubs for those without transport and the PC agreed to submit an application to HDC Making a Difference Fund for repainting the MUGA surface. The replacement of a rotten post with a recycled fence post at the Village Green, creation of an area for Cremation Plots in the cemetery, vandalism to the school and recreation area boundary and refilling of grit bins were also discussed.

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During February I attended a YLCA meeting, where we heard presentations from the NYCC Resilience & Emergencies Team and Ready for Anything Volunteer Scheme, and the PC held two extraordinary meetings to discuss a response to the planning applications for OS Field 8464 on Highthorne Lane. Then, at the meeting in March, we were informed that the pub was under new ownership, our application to HDC Making a Difference Fund had been submitted to the panel for consideration, an area had been marked out in the Cemetery for Cremation Plots, a quote had been received from Pavescape Sports Services for repainting the MUGA surface and damage to Kendrew Green railings had been repaired. A builder had inspected the Bier House roof but no quote had been received and Councillors agreed to request other tenders for the work. Other items discussed were Elphin View Traffic issues, the advertisement of the Clerks position and the Community Champions initiative.

During the last two years we have been asked to comment on 35 planning applications, ranging from works to trees to the construction of new dwellings. The Parish Council objected to one of these applications and requested conditions be placed on a number of others with Hambleton District Council approving thirty, refusing one and still considering the others.

Over the past two years Councillors have attended meetings of the Beckwith Trust, Easingwold & Villages Forum, Husthwaite Village Hall and Yorkshire Local Councils Associations and we have hopefully kept parishioners aware of the activities in which we have been involved with regular articles in the Husthwaite Newsletter.

I would like to end my report, as usual, by thanking my fellow councillors for their hard work over the last year. In addition, I am sure they will join me in expressing our gratitude to the many volunteers in our village who offered to support those in our community who were vulnerable and isolating during the last year. The kindness shown to your fellow parishioners was absolutely amazing and your willingness to help those in need was truly outstanding and we thank you all for everything you have contributed.

Signed.....21st July 2021